



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Leaders of Mail Theft and Identity Theft Ring Get Prison Terms - Took Mail From Residences, Law Firms -**

WASHINGTON - Two leaders of a mail theft and identity theft ring were sentenced today to terms of incarceration by a judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Daniel S. Cortez, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Lisa Davis, also known as Lisa Davis Locke, 45, of the 1800 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Washington, D.C., was sentenced to a five-year term by the Honorable Judge John D. Bates. Terry Locke, 40, of the 800 block of Euclid Street NW, Washington, D.C., was sentenced to three years incarceration. Judge Bates sentenced a third defendant, Alicia Davis, 23, of the 1800 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, to probation for her role in the ring.

So far eight members of the ring have been sentenced for their part in stealing mail from residences, largely in Northwest Washington, as well as from mail rooms in the law firms of Venable and Sonnenschein in Washington, D.C. Under the direction of Lisa Davis, mail was stolen from unsecured mailboxes of residences. Locke stole mail intended for more than 50 recipients in order to find checks and personal identification information, such as Social Security numbers, that could be used to cash the checks. Locke was responsible for the theft of checks from the law firms. The face value of checks stolen by the ring was more than \$340,000.

As part of her plea, Lisa Davis admitted that, beginning from at least as early as January 2007 and continuing until April 18, 2008, she participated in a conspiracy to possess stolen mail and to present forged checks to banks, either directly or through check cashing stores. Lisa Davis knew that others were involved in the conspiracy, which involved stealing mail from places such as the law firms of Venable LLP (hereinafter Venable) and Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP in the District of Columbia. Lisa Davis also knew that members of the conspiracy possessed stolen mail of people who lived in the District of Columbia.

Lisa Davis knew that the mail was stolen in order to find financial documents, such as checks, as well as identification information, such as social security numbers. Lisa Davis knew that financial documents and identification information stolen from the mail were stored at her residence on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW. And Lisa Davis knew that the mail of many more than 50 people had been stolen during the course of the conspiracy.

During the conspiracy, in addition to stolen checks she cashed by herself, Lisa Davis knew that another member of the conspiracy was going to cash a check stolen from Venable after November 20, 2007, that was payable to

THE PROPELLER CLUB OF WASHINGTON (NM)  
A----W----C----, Venable, LLC 575 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

AWC is a real person who was then employed at Venable. The payment amount was \$1,000, and the check was drawn on the Bank of America, a financial institution then insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Because the name AWC was the correct payee of the check, Lisa Davis knew that AWC was a real person. Lisa Davis also knew that in order to cash the check a false endorsement and identification in the name of the real AWC would be used. In fact, on or about November 30, 2007, the check was cashed at Bloomingdale Liquors in the District of Columbia using a false identification in the name of AWC. Lisa Davis did not cash the check, but she knew it was going to be cashed as part of the conspiracy and profited the act.

A search warrant was executed in April 2008 at Lisa Davis's home on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW. At that time, Lisa Davis knew that, among the pieces of stolen mail stored in her residence, were checks stolen from mail at Venable. One of these checks found during execution of the search warrant was payable to Venable in the amount of \$5,491.00 and was dated November 19, 2007.

As part of his plea, Terry Locke admitted that, between December 10, 2007 and April 18, 2008, he worked for Williams Lea, which provided mail room services to the law firm of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP (hereafter Sonnenschein) in Washington, D.C. While assigned to work at Sonnenschein, Terry Locke stole pieces of mail that contained checks.

Terry Locke knew others who cashed stolen checks by use of false endorsements and false identification cards. Terry Locke knew that the others stored financial documents and identification information stolen from the mail at the residence of Lisa Davis on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW.

Terry Locke added the checks he stole from Sonnenschein to the stolen mail stored at Lisa Davis's residence, intending that the checks would be available to be cashed by the others.

Among the pieces of stolen mail discovered during the April 2008 search at the residence of Lisa Davis, were five checks payable to Sonnenschein with check dates and amounts as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 31, 2008	\$ 1,120.00
February 7, 2008	\$ 4,215.10
February 8, 2008	\$ 9,845.00
February 22, 2008	\$ 204.00
March 1, 2008	\$ 6,687.45

Terry Locke also did not dispute that the government has evidence that could be argued to show greater involvement by him in the conspiracy.

As part of her plea, Alicia Davis agreed that, on or about April 9, 2008, she presented three checks, totaling \$1,475, to a cashier at a branch of PNC Bank in Washington, D.C. Alicia Davis deposited the checks into an account that had been opened fraudulently in a false name. Along with the three checks, Alicia Davis presented a completed deposit slip on which was written the false name in which the account had been opened. Each of the three checks deposited by Alicia Davis had been stolen; each was payable to WH; and each had been signed by a different person. Further, each of the three checks deposited by Alicia Davis had been fraudulently endorsed with the name WH. Bank photos show Alicia Davis making the deposit.

In announcing the sentences, U.S. Attorney Machen and U. S. Postal Inspector in Charge Cortez commended the work of U.S. Postal Inspector Dean Davis, who investigated the case. They also commended Financial Analyst Crystal Boodoo, Paralegal Specialist Carolyn Cody, and Legal Assistants Jared Forney and Jamasee Lucas of the Fraud and Public Corruption Section as well as Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jonathan Haray and Thomas E. Zeno.

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